

BASE BRIEFS

OFFICIALS OPEN BEACHES

Fridays through Mondays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., people can visit limited areas of Surf, Wall and Minuteman beaches. The open-area boundaries are clearly marked and base officials will issue citations to people who enter closed areas. For information regarding beach access or status, call the Beach Hotline at 606-6804.

TAX FILING DEADLINE NEARS

There are only three more days left in this year's tax filing season. The base tax office offers free service to all active-duty, dependents, retirees and federal employees. Trained volunteers are accepting appointments to prepare federal and state returns. Call a unit tax representative at 606-3650 or 605-3668.

BAND PRESENTS FREE CONCERT

The Air Force Band of the Golden West presents a free concert April 27 at 8 p.m. at the Veteran's Memorial Community Center at 313 W. Tunnell St. in Santa Maria. The concert features the band's newest chamber ensemble. For free tickets or information, call the Public Affairs office at 606-3595.

RANGE COMPLEX OFF LIMITS

The 30th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms Range Complex, located off of San Antonio Road West, is off limits to all unauthorized people. Danger signs are posted around the range complex. For entry, call 605-5025.

MED GROUP NEEDS INSURANCE INFO

Throughout the month of April, 30th Medical Group patients should plan to arrive at least 25 minutes before their scheduled appointments. Clinic workers will collect third party insurance information from patients who carry additional health insurance. Those who don't have additional insurance coverage must fill out the required forms too. For information, call Capt. Vernon Swinton at 606-9076.

DENTAL SICK CALL HOURS CHANGE

Monday, the dental clinic began limiting afternoon sick call appointments to 381st Training Group students only. All others may report to the dental clinic for sick call at 7:30 a.m. for evaluation. Active-duty patients who have severe dental emergencies will continue to be seen 24 hours a day. For information, call the dental clinic at 606-8860.

WING NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The 30th Space Wing needs volunteers to

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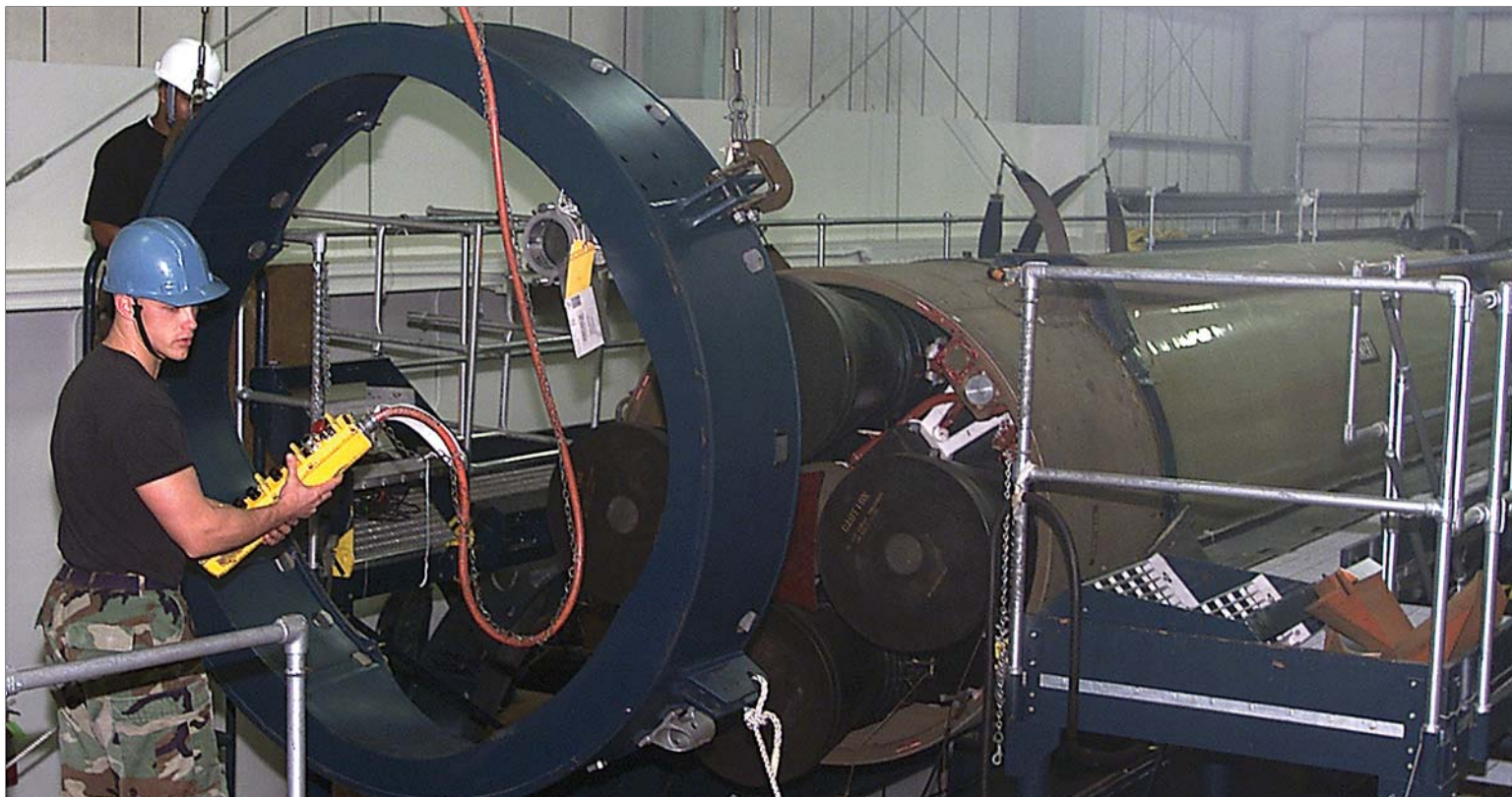


PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CANDICE ANGLIN

Missile maintainers from the 576th Flight Test Squadron install a modified missile adapter ring onto a Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile. The ring supports the missile once it has been positioned in the silo.

Minuteman hits target 4,800 miles away

BY CAPT. TOM KNOWLES
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ An unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile launched from North Vandenberg at 2:29 a.m. Monday. The launch was a team effort by members of the 30th Space Wing, the 576th Flight Test Squadron here, the 90th Space Wing from F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., and an airborne launch control team from Offutt AFB, Neb.

The launch window opened at 1:01 a.m., but the launch was intentionally delayed to allow for optimum positioning of the Global Positioning Satellite constellation.

"Data from the satellites will be

used to measure Minuteman guidance set performance and accuracy," said Col. Mark Owen, 30th Operations Group commander.

The primary purpose of the mission was to test the reliability and accuracy of the weapon system. The missile's unarmed re-entry vehicle traveled approximately 4,800 miles in about 30 minutes, hitting a pre-determined target at the Kwajalein Missile Range in the western chain of the Marshall Islands.

"The world remains a very unsettled and dangerous place — and beyond Missile Defense initiatives — the nation's ICBM force continues to be a very real deterrent to those

who would threaten our national security," said Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander.

"Our strategic nuclear forces remain the backbone of U.S. national security policy, and the missile force stands ready as an instrument of that policy," Worley said. "By testing our land-based missiles at Vandenberg, we play a key role in ensuring their accuracy and overall reliability."

Worley served as the spacelift commander for this mission. The mission director was Lt. Col. Michael Fortney, 576th FLTS commander. Capt. David Slye, 576th FLTS, was the launch director. Members from the 90th SW and the

576th FLTS conducted maintenance activities and a 576th Top Hand team directed launch operations. Lt. Col. Derek Avance commanded the team from Wyoming.

"Team V did a great job setting us up for success," said Fortney. "Col. Owen's and Lt. Col. Hogler's (30th Range Squadron commander) folks were superb."

As for his 576th troops, Fortney said, "I could not have been prouder if I stacked and launched the thing myself — from the back-shop troops and the front-line maintenance teams to the operators on the countdown team, these 576th folks know missile launch and they showed it Monday."

Stop-Loss ends for some AFSCs

BY MASTER SGT. DOROTHY GOEPFEL
Air Force Print News

■ WASHINGTON, D.C. — Air Force officials announced Wednesday the release of several Air Force Specialty Codes from Stop-Loss, a Defense Department program designed to retain members of the armed forces beyond established dates of separation or retirement.

The announcement comes as a result of an Air Force 60-day review and applies across the board to the active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard forces, according to Lt. Col. Jan Middleton, chief of promotion, evaluation and separation policy at the Pentagon.

"Our exit plan calls for a gradual drawdown from Stop-Loss, which means we want to continue to release AFSCs with each review as long as we are able to maintain sufficient forces to meet mission requirements," she said.

The officer career fields released from stop-loss restrictions, effective May 1, are: 32E, 33S, 35P, 42F, 42G, 42N, 42P, 42S, 42T, 43P, 43Y, 44B, 44F, 44G, 44J, 44K, 44N, 44P, 44R, 44S, 44T, 44U, 45E, 45G, 45N, 45U, 47E, 47G, 47H, 47K, 47P, 47S, 51J, 61S, 62E, 63A and 64P.

The enlisted career fields released from stop-loss restrictions, effective May 1, are: 1T0X0, 2A1X0, 2A390, 2S0X2, 3C1X1, 3C1X2, 3E1X1, 3E3X1, 3E6X1, 3S1X0, 3S1X1, 3S2X0, 3S2X1, 3V000, 3V090, 3V0X1, 3V0X2, 3V0X3, 4A0X0, 4A0X1, 4B0XX, 4C0X0, 4C0X1, 4D0X0, 4D0X1, 4M0X0, 4M0X1, 4N1X1, 4P0X0, 4P0X1, 4R0X1, 4T0X0, 4T0X1,

See STOP-LOSS Page 4

Base honors warriors

Team V dedicates room to supporter

BY 2ND LT. MICHELLE MAYO
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ More than 200 people were in attendance Saturday as the Pacific Coast Club's Garden Room officially became the Warrior Room.

The name change was held in honor of Joe Sesto, a long-time supporter of Team V.

"His enormous and enduring efforts have continuously supported and improved relations between the military and civilian communities of the Santa Maria Valley," reads a plaque mounted at the front of the room.

In addition to a name change, the room also underwent a makeover.

"We wanted to document the heritage and history of Vandenberg," said Lt. Col. Brad Ashley, 30th Communications Squadron commander.

"The portraits used to line the

walls of the entry hall, but it didn't do them justice," said Ashley. "This way people can look at the different portraits and pictures and reflect on the past."

Its walls are now adorned with the photographs of the 30th Space Wing's previous commanders — from Maj. Gen. David Wade, who served at Vandenberg from 1958 to 1961, to the current wing commander, Col. Robert M. Worley II.

Placed among the portraits are launch images and other photographs that document Vandenberg's history.

In addition to the wing commander pictures, portraits of the wing's command chief master sergeants are to be hung on the wall.

"We want to honor all of the Space Wing's leaders — enlisted and officer," Ashley said.

The room is available for meetings and banquets.

Enjoy java



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CANDICE ANGLIN

Chaplain (Capt.) Mitchell Zygaldo enjoyed a frothy cappuccino at the new G.I. Java cafe during a commander's tour April 2. The \$140,000 cafe opens today at 2 p.m. It is open to dorm residents from 1 to 8 p.m. every day in Bldg. 13460. The cafe is run by an all volunteer staff. To volunteer, call the base chapel at 606-5773.

Zap: There's more to the Air Force's free corrective laser surgery program than first meets the eye

BY 2ND LT. MICHELLE MAYO
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Before electing to participate in the Air Force's free laser eye surgery program, people should be aware of the differences between the surgery the Air Force offers and conventional laser eye surgery.

It's the difference between "flap and zap" and "scrape and zap," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Steven DeAnda, Vandenberg's optometrist.

LASIK, laser in-situ keratomileusis, is what DeAnda calls "flap and zap."

"What you will find when you look up laser eye surgery on the internet and what's done at most off-base facilities is LASIK," said DeAnda.

During LASIK, an ophthalmologist slices a flap, thinner than

a grape-skin, into the outer layer of the eye's cornea. The doctor peels back the flap and uses a laser to precisely remove tiny amounts of the inner cornea and reshapes it. Once the inner cornea has been reshaped, the doctor flips the flap back, so it can re-adhere to the eye naturally.

The patient generally heals in a day or two with little pain, DeAnda said.

"When you participate in (the Air Force) program, you are not getting LASIK," DeAnda emphasized.

The program DeAnda refers to is the Warfighter Photorefractive Keratectomy Program. The program offers free corrective laser eye surgery to eligible military members. However, the surgery

offered is photorefractive keratectomy, also known as PRK.

PRK, an older type of corrective surgery, is what DeAnda refers to as "scrape and zap."

The cornea's outer layer is completely removed. The doctor does this by completely scraping off the cornea's outer layer. Once the outer layer is scraped off, the doctor uses a laser to sculpt the cornea.

The process can be painful and the pain usually lasts four or five days, said DeAnda.

This information is not meant to scare or deter those interested in the program, said DeAnda.

"I just want people to understand what they're getting them

See LASER Page 4

This issue of the



Also view The Space & Missile Times at http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/news/space_times/index.html

Vandenberg's Honor Guard prepares for the first-ever GC Honor Guard competition. See Page 4.



Team V recognizes the AFSPC annual award winners as the best of the best. See Page 6.



Weekend forecast Patchy morning fog with partly cloudy skies for the weekend.

Low/High 47/66

For a full VAFB weather report visit www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather/index.html

Air Force core values: ‘A foundation from which to act’

LT. COL. MIKE FORTNEY
576th Flight Test Squadron commander

I know what you’re thinking, “Another piece on Air Force Core Values? We get it already. Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do. This guy must have zero imagination.” If that is what you’re thinking, I understand to some extent.

Every time you open a base paper or discuss leadership in Professional Military Education you see or hear Integrity, Service, and Excellence.

Why the repetition? Well, here’s something to consider. One thing to remember is that while many have been living core values for decades, they were only codified under Gen. Ronald Fogleman in 1997; that’s a mere five years ago.

It takes time to influence a service culture. Especially when you consider that unlike many sub-cultures in America, who already share common beliefs and values, the Air Force is made up of members from not only all reaches of the 50 states, but from all over the world.

Influencing such a diverse group takes time, determination and focus.

Also, consider possible benefits of repetition.

As an old Strategic Air Command missileer, I can confirm what our pilot counterparts often say. In times of pressure when the senses overload, you fall back on things that you’ve read and practiced so much that they’ve literally become

part of who you are. Does that mean that every time you get into a tense situation, repetitive training translates perfectly into the fix you are in? Of course not. It does, however, provide a foundation or baseline from which to chart your next move.

You might be asking, “OK, I understand repetition has value, but how does this all affect me and core values?”

Just as repetition provides a baseline for reacting in a contingency, repeatedly discussing the meaning and implications of our core values better prepares us to handle our day-to-day “contingencies” It gives us a baseline, if you will, from which to act. Consider an everyday situation or two.

The memory of your last inspector general visit is

fresh. You clearly remember every one of your section’s discrepancies, one of which is a write-up documenting supervisors’ failure to properly annotate training records.

Now as you put the finishing touches on your section’s records for tomorrow’s unit self inspection, you come across an improperly annotated record.

What will you do?

As you consider your options, the thought crosses your mind, “This guy knows this task, a stroke of a pencil and the problem disappears.” Or you could handle it another way.

How about another scenario?

It’s late Friday afternoon, it’s been another long week, and you just gave the bad news to your

troops, “With the launch around the corner, you’re going have to work Saturday on the tasks that didn’t get done today.” Then you remember your regular foursome’s tee-time out at Marshallia.

What will you do?

You could layout the task and checkup on them at the turn after No. 9. Or you could handle it another way. How about another?

Another bad day in the field, nothing went right. As you crawl back into the shop you remember the superintendent’s policy of downloading and gassing vehicles and inventorying all tools ... ugh.

What will you do?

“Ah, it’s 5 p.m. and that truck will be here tomorrow. I’ll just leave a note for the morning team, I’m sure they’ll have time.” But, you could handle it another way.

Granted, the situations above don’t rise to the intensity level of an in-flight or missile emergency, but in each case, falling back on ingrained core values as a baseline for action would point to the right thing to do.

Integrity – *I can’t fudge that training record. I’ll just take my lumps.*

Service – *I really don’t want to miss that tee time, but I’d better be here with my troops.*

Excellence – *I sure am beat, but it’ll only take a few minutes to take care of the truck and tools.*

Our Air Force Core Values are important, not just because they’re the “right thing to do,” but because they help provide a common foundation to unite the many diverse backgrounds that make up our force. Repetition for a cause like this is a good thing.

Integrity, Service, and Excellence – a foundation from which to act.

Commander’s Action line 606-7850

Mission success is our top priority, and the talented men and women of Team Vandenberg get it done with excellence.

Key to the effectiveness of any great team is good communication. The 30th Space Wing Commander’s Action Line is your direct communication link to me.

It provides an avenue for you to voice your concerns, share constructive ideas, or give your Vandenberg teammates a pat on the back.

I appreciate your input, and I am personally involved

in every response.

While the Commander’s Action Line is a great way to communicate, don’t forget there are many other avenues to get answers to your questions including your chain of command, first sergeants, base services officials and other base professionals.

Thanks for helping to make Vandenberg such a great place to work and live. When calling the action line, please leave your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

E-mail your message to actionline@vandenberg.af.mil



Col. Robert M. Worley II
Commander,
30th Space Wing

Letter to the editor Deployed member sends thanks to Global Hearts, Team Vandenberg

I recently returned from a six-month deployment in support of “Operation Enduring Freedom” and would like to thank everyone in the Global Hearts Group for all the help they provided for my wife and I while I was deployed.

They mowed our lawn, changed the oil in our car, and stayed in contact with my wife while I was away.

I’d also like to thank my commander Col. Robert Kopp and my First Sergeant Master Sgt. Mark Reed for the fast response on the situations which arose on this deployment.

During my deployment, I and three others from Vandenberg received a care package during Christmas with much needed bathroom supplies which we did

not have at our location (this location still does not have them) cards from local school children showing their support, and a letter from Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, thanking us for what we were doing.

Included in this package was an issue of the *Space and Missiles Times*. In this issue was an article about the Global Hearts Group Program, which my co-workers from six different bases read. After reading this article they were envious of what

Team Vandenberg does for its deployed people, and many said they would ask their commanders to start a similar program. Team Vandenberg really has a

lot of good programs out there to help when you are deployed and if you are to deploy soon, you should take advantage of them. With the situation we were in, my wife and I had no contact with each other for the first month. And when I did get in touch with my wife she informed me that everything at home was fine.

While other people were stressing out about their problems I knew I had Team Vandenberg to count on. I would like to thank everyone who mowed my lawn, checked the oil in my car, and called my wife to see if there was anyway in which they could help.

Vandenberg’s efforts made my six-month deployment a smooth one.

Thank you,
Tech. Sgt. Jose Requena
30th Civil Engineer Squadron



SPACE & MISSILE TIMES

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Heard a rumor? Get the facts!
During crises or emergencies, call the Vandenberg rumor control line at 606-1857.

Got Guardian Gear?



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Hats
Scarves
Patches
Pins

**Get it now!
Call 606-2415**

GO HAWKS!

Honor guard preps for first Guardian Challenge competition

By 2nd Lt. Michelle Mayo
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

For the first time in Guardian Challenge history, Vandenberg's Honor Guard will compete against the other Honor Guards in Space Command for the privilege of being the competition Honor Guard.

In the past, Vandenberg's Honor Guard has been the GC Honor Guard because the competition is held here every year.

This year, seven teams will compete for the honor at a competition being held at Peterson AFB, Colo., from April 23 to 25.

And Vandenberg's 10-person team is feeling the pressure.

"It's pressure, because we want to bring it back," said Capt. Brian Holbein, officer in charge of the honor guard and an instructor at the 534th Training Squadron.

"Hopefully, we'll step up to the plate and win."

Master Sgt. Yves Johnson, NCO in charge of the Honor

Guard, said he has no doubts about the team's winning potential.

"The 10 people who were selected are among our best," Johnson said. "Their drive and dedication allowed them to get a spot on the team and this leads me to believe that we will come out victorious."

"But, truthfully, it's a toss up," he said. "Each competing honor guard team will be practicing just as hard as we are and they are equally sharp and technically sound."

The team has stepped up practices from once a week to three times a week. They have regular honor guard practice for two

hours every Tuesday morning with the full honor guard, which consists of about 50 people. The competition team, which is 10 primary and two alternate members, practice for an hour and a half on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

The team will once again step up practice next week.

"We will practice at least half a day every day during the week leading up to the competition," Holbien said.

The Air Force Honor Guard will judge each team in six categories — the posting and retiring of the colors, flag folding, firing party, standard honors funeral procession, weapons cleaning and a pall bearer procession.

An open-ranks inspection will be held at the beginning of the contest. The points earned from that inspection will only be used in the case of a tie-breaker.

"It's both a reward and a responsibility to represent the base at the competition," said Holbien.

"I'd like Team V to know that everyone is working hard and doing a great job to represent Team V."

The members of Vandenberg's Honor Guard Team are as follows: Capt. Brian Holbein, OIC, Staff Sgt. Tyson Wilhelm, non-

commissioned officer in charge, Senior Airman Darryl Lyles, assistant non-commissioned officer in charge, Senior Airman Danny Twyman, trainer, Senior Airman Kanakaokakai Namauu, trainer, Senior Airman Gabriel Aragon, Airman 1st Class Yasmin Alvarez-Sanchez, Airman 1st Class Jason Adkins, Airman 1st Class Justin Fattorosi, Airman 1st Class Justin Fattorosi, and Airman 1st Class Nimfa Mananggit.

Senior Airman David Lukas and Airman 1st Class Evan Simpson are alternates.

Vandenberg competes against teams from Patrick AFB, Fla., Malmstrom AFB, Mont., Warren AFB, Wyo., Minot AFB, N.D., and joint teams from Buckley AFB, Peterson AFB, Shriever AFB, Colo., Los Angeles AFB and March AFB.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CANDICE ANGLIN

Vandenberg's honor guard will compete against seven other teams for the right to be called the best in Air Force Space Command for 2002.

Go Hawks!
Let's keep the Schriever here!

Vandenberg's competition honor guard team trains three days a week preparing for their first Guardian Challenge. The team competes Apr. 23 to 25 at Peterson AFB, Colo.

Team Vandenberg Spotlight



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CANDICE ANGLIN

Name: Senior Airman Gabriel Valle
Assignment: 9th Space Operations Squadron
Hometown: Santa Maria, Calif.
Time on Vandenberg: Two years
Time in service: Two years
Hobbies: Freshwater fishing, hunting, hiking, home improvements, playing cops and robbers with 3-year-old daughter, and spending time with family
Likes best about Air Force: The high standards and the people make the Air Force great to work for.
Supervisor's comments: "Senior Airman Valle is exceptionally hard working; his dedication is inspirational," said Maj. Lois Diggs, 9th SOPS commander.

By Staff Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Team Vandenberg members contributed more than \$36,000 during the 2002 Air Force Assistance Fund drive.

The campaign closed today after six weeks of raising money for the Air Force Aid Society, The Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund, The Air Force Enlisted Foundation and the Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

"The generous support from members of Team V resulted in \$36,464.52 in donations," said Capt. Ann Igl, installation project officer for AFAF. "Units went above and beyond the goals of the program."

Team Vandenberg AFAF representatives successfully reached

100 percent contact of all unit personnel.

"Each of the group, unit, and key worker representatives did a superb job spreading the word and reaching out to their unit," Igl said. "I want to thank all who assisted with this program, because they made a difference."

Each representative was responsible for contacting individuals within their unit and collecting donations.

They informed unit members about the AFAF program and then let the individuals decide whether

to donate towards programs within the AFAF.

According to Igl, Vandenberg's representatives hit the ground running. So much so that all local contact had been made long before the deadline.

The campaign was scheduled to end March 29, but officials decided to extend it through today to allow unit representatives to contact people who are on TDY outside the local area.

The AFAF donations contributed during the 2002 campaign di-



Team V raises more than \$36,000

rectly influence Air Force service members around the world. Many airmen turn to the Air Force Aid Society in times of personal crisis or hardship.

"Our Air Force family is embracing the core value of 'Service Before Self' by supporting the programs sponsored by AFAF," said Igl. "We are dedicated to taking care of our personnel in times of personal emergencies."

This support enables the society to continue aiding Air Force people when unforeseen circumstances arise.

Igl said the AFAF campaign here reflects the value Team V attaches to the Air Force and each other.

"Vandenberg truly is committed to caring," she said.

Cops hoof it to serve, protect base wildlife

By MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs
Editor's note: This is the final article in a three-part series about Team V's military working horse team.

There aren't too many cops with partners who weigh a half-a-ton or more and can say they hoof it covering a beat that's two times the size of Washington D.C.

Those bragging rights go to Vandenberg's 30th Security Forces Squadron fish and game team and their heavyweight partners – the Air Force's only military working horses.

Jim Mercier, Vandenberg's wildlife enforcement chief, added military working horses to his team because of the varied, often rough, terrain the Central Coast base has. Prior to 1996, his team used all-terrain vehicles.

Mercier said the ATVs weren't able to get into some of the precarious spots that horses can.

"Now we patrol just about anywhere," the base's top game warden said.

Environmentally, the horses are a perfect fit for enforcing the various state and federal wildlife protection and environmental laws here.

When patrol horses walk through sensitive habitat, they're far less likely to harm the threatened or endangered species here, according to Lt. Col. Scott Westfall, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight commander.

Mercier and Westfall's programs so closely compliment each other that the environmental flight kicks about \$10,000 a year

into the fish and game budget.

Each year, that money pays for supplies and sends a game warden to the Federal Land Management Enforcement School in Brunswick, Ga., Westfall said. During the 17-week, \$8,000 course, students learn about natural resource protection.

Additionally, Mercier said, his team is one of only a few who are trained to rescue sick sea mammals by the California Marine Mammal Research Institute.

Last year, his team rescued about 36 spasm-wracked California Sea Lions along the base's 41 miles of coastline. They were victims of demoic acid poisoning, which is the same as seafood poisoning in humans.

From rescuing animals and protecting habitat along 12.5 miles of sandy beaches to safeguarding the base's Chumash Native American rock art sites and burial grounds, Westfall said Mercier's team is critical to Vandenberg's award-winning environmental program. But saddle patrol isn't a soft duty.

"A couple of summers ago, Alamo and Senior Airman Thomas White were attacked by an unleashed dog while they were patrolling Surf Beach," the base's top game warden said. During the fray, the rider remained untouched and the horse received minor injuries.

The mounted teams also play a key role in Vandenberg's launch mission.

In July 2000, during the

missile defense protests by Greenpeace, security forces used several mounted patrols to detect protest infiltrators on north base, Mercier said. Twelve people were caught and detained.

Just like any other active-duty cop, the horses need training too. Mercier and Carolyn Curry, a base game warden and horse trainer, are training their new four-legged partners, Liberty and Justice.

Fish and Game enlisted the two-year-old Percheron-Thoroughbred crossbreeds last September in an effort to phase new blood into the aging military working horse team. The oldest, Red Hawk, 20, retired last month. The other five range in age from 8 to 18 years old.

"We're doing all of the training ourselves, based on the principles of John Lyons – one of the world's most respected horse trainers," Curry said.

Once the young mares are trained, Mercier said his game wardens will learn and apply the same techniques to their mounts.

"That way, each horse will respond the same way to cues from the rider – regardless of who it is," Mercier said.

To control rowdy crowds and apprehend infiltrators from the saddle, the horse and rider teams attend confrontation management training with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department Mounted Unit.

Whether they be sitting in the saddle or wearing it, Vandenberg's Fish and Game Team works together keeping watch over hunters, anglers, Native American archeological sites and base trespassers.

Four-star STEP



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN ED BRALY

Maj. Gen. William Looney III, 14th Air Force commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Kriete, tack master sergeant stripes onto the sleeve of Tech. Sgt. Lee Lopez. General Ed Eberhart, Air Force Space Command commander, STEP promoted Lopez Monday during a video teleconference.

LASER: People should know regulations before surgery

From Page 1

reselves into when they sign up for the free program," he added.

There are several requirements that must be met before getting corrective laser eye surgery, whether they use the free program or not.

The most important requirement is that people contemplating surgery must first get permission from their commanders.

"The commanders have mobility requirements that they must meet," DeAnda said. "And if you get LASIK or PRK done, you must be taken off mobility status for at least one month," DeAnda said. "The commanders need to know who is deployable and who is not."

If the commander agrees to the surgery, the patient must then determine what priority they are for the Warfighter PRK program, because this affects whether they need to get further permission.

For anyone designated as Priority 1, a stop by the eye clinic

is mandatory, because they are required to fill out paperwork that must be sent to Brooks AFB, Texas, for approval.

Space and missile operators and students are Priority 1.

Without approval from Brooks AFB, the person could lose their job in the Air Force.

Priority Status for Warfighter PRK Program

■ Priority 1 includes people identified as aviation or special duty to include space and missile operators; Priority 2 people are those who routinely wear night-vision goggles, eye protection or respiratory protection as part of their duty, such as security forces, firefighters and bioengineers to name a few; Priority 3 indicates people on mobility status; Priority 4 is for all others.

To date, one person at Vandenberg has lost his training slot in space and missiles because he had surgery without approval.

Even if a person goes down-town to get the operation and pays for it with their own money, failure to follow the proper procedures can result in a discharge, DeAnda warned.

Once all appropriate approvals have been received, the patient needs to see the Health Benefits Advisor in the TRICARE office, notify their unit deployment manager, take leave for the operation and report to the optometry clinic within 72 hours after surgery.

"We want to ensure there are no complications and that our airmen are seeing well enough to do their job," DeAnda said.

For those interested in the Warfighter PRK program or getting LASIK at an off-base clinic, contact the base optometry clinic at 606-0468.

BRIEFS: Volunteers needed, GC bonfire

From Page 1

march in the Salute to the U.S. Air Force Armed Forces Day Parade in Torrance, Calif., May 18. For information or to volunteer, call Public Affairs at 606-3595.

GC STAFF NEEDS DV ESCORTS

The Guardian Programs Office needs officers, second lieutenant through major, to serve as escorts for distinguished visitors from May 4 to 10. To volunteer, call 1st Lt. Erick Fonseca or 2nd Lt. Joe Mannino at 606-2959 or 606-6035.

WAPS SCORES AVAILABLE ON-LINE

Enlisted members now have the ability to view their Weighted Airman Promotion System scores online. The latest update of the virtual military personnel flight allows members to access their score information about 10

days after the release of results. People can access the vMPF through the Air Force Personnel Center web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Team Vandenberg Special Olympics committee is still looking for volunteer athlete escorts for the Area Games to be held on base April 20. Escorts must be at least 18 years old. Anyone from Team Vandenberg can volunteer, including active duty, guard, reserves, dependents, civil service, contractors, etc. Help make a difference for these special athletes and contact Capt. Trevor Flint at trevor.flint@vandenberg.af.mil or 606-0101 to volunteer.

LEGAL OFFICE CHANGES HOURS

The 30th Space Wing Legal Office changed legal as-

sistance hours on Wednesdays. The new hours are from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Attorneys are available for a range of legal issues. For information, call Tech. Sgt. Yovanne Prince at 605-6220.

SATURDAY CLINIC HOURS CHANGE

The 30th Medical Group changed the hours of operation for the Saturday Clinic. Family Practice is open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and the pharmacy is open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Be advised that the appointments are for acute and routine needs only. Customers may schedule appointments by calling 606-CARE.

GC FIRES UP

The Guardian Challenge bonfire is set for April 25 at 12 p.m. at Cocheo Park. For more information, call the Guardian programs office at 606-5763.

STOP-LOSS: Current manning allows release of some

From Page 1

4T0X2, 4T0X3, 4U0X0, 4U0X1, 4V0X0, 4V0X1, 4Y0X0, 4Y0X1, 4Y0X2, 5J0X0, 5J0X1, 6C0X0, 6C0X1, 8A100, 8C000, 8E000, 8G000, 8J000, 8P000, 8P100, 8R000, 8T000, 9A200, 9A300, 9C000 and 9G000.

During each cyclical review, Middleton explained, major commands, Air Staff and Secretariat functionals and officials at Air Force Personnel Center review all AFSCs for possible release.

"We review current manning and authorizations, the number of people deployed for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, the number of Air Reserve Center personnel mobilized, and overall health of the career fields," Middleton said. "We will conduct subsequent reviews every 60 days to allow some stability."

Members who are deployed in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, or related operations, and Reserve/Guard

components who are voluntarily or involuntarily on active duty in support of these operations or related operations, will not be released until they return from deployment or are demobilized, officials said.

Officials emphasized that Stop-Loss is devised to meet all operational requirements in addition to Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom.

They point out that the Armed Forces will continue to conduct operations in Southwest Asia.

New stripes



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CANDICE ANGLIN

Senior Airman Ronald Herndon, 533rd Training Squadron, takes the oath of re-enlistment from Capt. Kendal Stevenson April 5. Herndon was promoted to senior airman below the zone right before re-enlisting.

ABL: Local hearing addresses proposed changes to Environmental Impact Statement

from Page 1
capabilities being developed would be able to use its integrated sensors and optics to acquire a target shortly after its launch.

Once the target is acquired the laser will maintain the focus on the moving target in order to destroy it. “The system, a chemical oxygen iodine laser, will be capable of tracking, identifying and destroying a target from more than 100 kilometers,” said Juventino Garcia, Director Public Affairs at the Air Force Research Laboratory, Kirtland AFB NM. “The whole process takes eight to 12 seconds.”

The hearing addressed proposed changes to the previously approved EIS as it dealt with testing for the Airborne Laser.

Some portions of the planned testing program have changed significantly since the original EIS was



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A commercial 747 freighter located at a Boeing plant in Wichita, Kansas, is undergoing 18 months of modifications for the Airborne Laser Program.

approved in 1997, when the Airborne Laser program was still in its early stages.

The Airborne Laser System Program Office at Kirtland manages

the program, now a part of the MDA. A subordinate unit of the Unites States Air Force’s Aeronautical Systems Center at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

IM conference set for Monday

By MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Information managers from three Air Force bases in California are gathering for the first-ever IM conference in the 381st Training Group auditorium. Sessions run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.

Commander and supervisor support of the conference is critical because they play a key role in keeping IMers competitive for promotions, assignments and deployments, said Senior Master Sgt. Doug Fischer, Vandenberg’s IM functional area manager.

During the conference, Air Force and Air Force Space Command IM functional area managers offer critical training and guidance to IMers from Vandenberg AFB, Edwards AFB and Los Angeles AFB, he said.

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Small, career field manager for the Air Force’s IMers, is one of the speakers for the conference.

“Chief Small is here to reinforce the importance of the career field in today’s high-tech Air Force,” Fischer said. “He’ll make sure our airmen are steered in the right direction and know their roles.

Chief Master Sgt. Betsy Gips, AFSPC IM FAM, joins Tech. Sgt. William Hughes, AFSPC workgroup manager, to train attendees on the Air Force’s workgroup manager program.

Other base agencies are training IMers about other significant programs they manage. These portions of the conference are also open to workgroup managers and secretaries, Fischer said.

“We want to ensure we meet the needs of information managers and those who perform IM duties,” he said.

Annual Vendor Day showcases more than 60 small businesses

By JERRY REYES

Small Business office

Vandenberg spends in excess of \$100 million a year to purchase anything from simple office supplies to the maintainance of the missile range.

Of what it spends, about 60 percent generally goes to small businesses.

Some customers become uneasy when you tell them that their requirement will be going to a small business. They don’t believe that a small business can handle the complexity or the magnitude of what they are asking for.

Small businesses are responsible for much of the new innovation we see today. For example, computers started with a very small business. Even Henry Ford started small.

So what’s considered a small business?

Most people are under the impression that it’s your “mom and pop” store in the local community, or something along that line. In some cases this may be true, but small businesses can also employ up to 1,000 people and have multi-million dollar earnings.

Because larger businesses generally have the advantage of greater resources and economy of scale, legislation was enacted during World War I to ensure small businesses would remain viable.

The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization here makes sure the base follows that legislation.

Since that time the government acquisition process and support to small businesses has come a long way. The Government Purchase Card Program is a great example of this. Using the card has not only reduced

paperwork, but makes it convenient for government personnel to purchase goods and services from local businesses.

With this in mind, cardholders are encouraged to do market research, and if appropriate, consider a small business when making purchases. This helps our small business and in turn, the local community.

VENDOR DAY IS THURSDAY

♦ The annual Small business Vendor day is Thursday at the Pacific Coast Club from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 50 local businesses will feature displays and literature highlighting their respective companies. For information about Vendor Day, call 606-6439



Civilian applicants must now self-nominate for jobs

■ RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Civilians interested in applying for specific job positions must now self-nominate under the Air Force’s Career Program system.

The Career Program office, will begin using the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System Monday, which provides a centralized merit promotion system to fill mid-level and senior management positions throughout the Air Force.

Career Program registration is no longer required to apply and compete for these positions, said personnel officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

Permanent Air Force employees do not need to submit a resume with their self-nomination unless one is requested in the job announcement. Applicants not currently associated with the Air Force are required to submit a resume for employment consideration.

Vacancies will be announced through the Civilian Announcement Notification System beginning April 19.

People interested in a job must then self-nominate via the AFPC’s employment home page or call toll free (800) 997-2378 or (210) 527-2378 within the San Antonio area. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News Service)

Program saves bundle cleaning contaminated soil

By BRION OCKENFELS

Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center

Public Affairs

■ TINKER AFB, Okla. — Environmental experts here are saving \$240 million by using a pilot program to clean contaminated soil from an industrial waste pit used half a century ago.

Experts are using the soil treatment technology program to clean soil from Industrial Waste Pit 1 here which various maintenance shops used to dispose of liquid waste, oil and chemical sludge from 1947 through 1958. The project should take about 240 days to complete, officials said.

“This pilot program we’re conducting at IWP-1 is specifically designed to remove organic and other volatile chemicals,” said Joseph Cecrle, environmental restoration chief. “It’s the first demonstration of its kind at the base.”

Dan Hunt, lead project manager, said the high-tech soil treatment equipment integrates three processes into one, giving it significant advantages over other clean up technologies.

The contaminated soil is excavated and transported to the treatment center where equipment heats it in a giant oven, similar to a kiln used in pottery making, Cecrle said. Temperatures exceeding 700 degrees Fahrenheit vaporize volatile and semi-volatile chemicals.

Chemical vapors from the kiln are then burned in a secondary process. Water is added to cool and add moisture to the soil, which keeps it clumped together for disposal, he said.

An official said not only is the process efficient, but it also saves the base money. Studies indicate the process costs the base less than \$37 per ton compared to others which cost around \$25,000 per ton. Tinker will save about \$40 million once the project is complete. (Courtesy of Air Force News Service)

Defense officials defend using new bomb

By TECH. SGT. SCOTT ELLIOTT

Air Force Print News

■ WASHINGTON — Despite reports to the contrary, defense officials said they have not violated the law of armed conflict during the war on terrorism.

Some media organizations, including The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, have questioned the Air Force’s use of the BLU-118/B “thermobaric” bomb on March 5 against al-Qaida fighters in a cave near Gardez, Afghanistan. Critics have claimed the bomb qualifies as a weapon of mass destruction because it is designed to detonate in two stages.

That claim is untrue, officials said.

The design of the BLU-118 allows for greater internal blast effectiveness, said Lt. Col. Thomas Ward, program manager of the hard target defeat branch of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

“This is done with a single-stage detonation, not in two stages as hypothesized by the articles,” he said.

“Many explosive fills try to balance the fuel and oxidizer within the same mix,” Ward said. “The general principle behind the new weapon is to carry a higher percentage of fuel, and attempt to use

available oxygen from the target area to add to the reaction, resulting in a higher overpressure.”

Other reported inaccuracies were caused in part, Ward said, by wrongly comparing the BLU-118 to a dissimilar Russian weapon. The Russian weapons used during its occupation of Afghanistan and, more recently, in Chechnya are more similar to a fuel-air explosive. These fuel-air bombs relied on a mist of liquid explosives to provide a secondary detonation.

The United States used a two-stage fuel-air explosive weapon, the BLU-82, in Vietnam. During the first stage, the fuel was spread and combined with oxygen in the atmosphere. A second stage detonator then ignited the fuel-air mixture. Unlike the BLU-82 or the Russian weapons, the BLU-118 uses a solid explosive that is detonated without previously having been dispersed and mixed with air, thereby making it a single-stage weapon.

The BLU-118 uses its fuel-rich composition to release energy over a longer period than traditional explosives, thereby creating a longer-duration blast effect when detonated in a confined area, such as a cave.

“The blast pressure from a traditional bomb explosive material starts strong but dissipates rapidly, which can result in relatively limited base effects deep within tunnels,” said Lt. Cmdr. Donald Sewell of the office of the Secretary of Defense for public affairs.

“The blast pressure of a thermobaric weapon, which combines a smaller amount of traditional explosive material with fuel enriched compounds (mostly aluminum), begins less strongly but builds within a confined space and extends over longer duration,” he said.

This increased blast pressure produces destructive effects over much greater distances within a tunnel or cave.

An added benefit to the thermobaric bomb, Sewell said, is reduced potential for collateral damage when detonated outside of a confined space.

“As with all new weapon acquisitions and modifications, use of the BLU-118 was reviewed and found consistent with all international legal obligations of the United States, including the law of armed conflict,” Sewell said.

Editor’s Note: For these news stories and more, check out the website www.af.mil.

Team Vandenberg achieves command accolades for 2001

■ The men and women of Team Vandenberg were recognized for mission and personal excellence in 2001, winning a variety of major command honors.

14TH AIR FORCE

614TH Space Operations Squadron

Air Force Command Post NCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Lee Lopez

Outstanding Personnel Manager of the Year, Headquarters Level Junior Manager

Capt. Karla Heren

AFSPC Active Duty Intelligence Officer of the Year

1ST Lt. Jennifer Campanella

AFSPC Communication and Information Professionalism Award, NCO

Staff Sgt. Robert Zipplies

NCO of the Year, chaplain Assistant

Staff Sgt. Dustin Stull

Outstanding AFSPC Chapel Service Team of the Year, Large base

Vandenberg Chapel

30TH Comptroller Squadron

AFSPC Financial Management and Comptroller of the Year

Lt. Col. Delane Aguilar

AFSPC Financial Services Category II Civilian of the Year

Mike Stadnick

30TH SW Manpower Office

AFSPC Manpower and Organization Company Grade Officer of the Year

Capt Daniel Brooks

30TH SW Inspector General Awards

John P. Flynn Award for Best Inspector General Office in AFSPC

30TH SW Inspector General Office

30TH SW Legal office

Vague award, outstanding legal services civilian of the year

Donna Rathbun

Westbrook award, outstanding reserve paralegal of the year

Staff Sgt. Lonnie McBride

Yates-Popwell award, outstanding SNCO paralegal of the year

Master Sgt. Charles Smith

30TH SW Public Affairs Awards

Air Force Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award, large wing

30TH SW Public Affairs

Air Force Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award for Media

Relations

30TH SW Public Affairs

Air Force Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award for Internal Information

30TH SW Public Affairs

Outstanding Public Affairs Company Grade Officer

Capt. Thomas Knowles

Outstanding Public Affairs Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Tyler Foster

AFSPC Media Contest, Best News Article

2ND Lt. Michelle Mayo

30TH Space Wing Command post

AFSPC Command Post of the Year Award

30 Space Wing Command post

30TH SW Safety Office

AFSPC Explosives Safety Plaque Category II

30TH SW

AFSPC Space Safety Plaque

30TH SW

30TH OPERATIONS GROUP

30TH Operations Support Squadron

D. Ray Hardin Air Traffic Control Facility of the Year

30TH OSS

Airfield Management Facility of the Year

30TH OSS

Colonel Derrel L. Dempsey Officer of the Year:

Capt. Eric Page

Air Traffic Control Enlisted Manager of the Year

Master Sgt. Richard Czap,

Airfield Management Senior NCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Richard Sweezer

Air Traffic Control Watch Supervisor of the Year —

Staff Sgt Clarence Christianson

Air Traffic Controller of the Year

Staff Sgt. Daniel Lewis

Terminal Instrument Procedures Specialist of the Year

Master Sgt. Kurt Palmer

76TH Helicopter Flight

Air Force Flight Safety Plaque

76TH HF

AFSPC Best Helicopter Crew, 2001Guardian Challenge

76TH HF

AFSPC Life Support Officer of the Year

Capt. Eric Ecker

2ND Space Launch Squadron

General Kutyna Trophy for "Best Spacelift Squadron in AFSPC"

2ND Space Launch Squadron

AFSPC Best Spacelift Operations Team, 2001Guardian Challenge

2ND SLS

AFSPC Best Spacelift Maintenance Team, 2001Guardian Challenge

2ND SLS

Best Spacelift Mechanical Technician in AFSPC, 2001Guardian Challenge

Tech. Sgt. Scottie Benson

Best Spacelift Facilities Technician in AFSPC, 2001Guardian Challenge

Tech. Sgt. Bill Gardner

30TH Range Squadron

AFSPC Best Spacelift Operations Team, 2001 Guardian Challenge

30TH RANS

30TH SUPPORT GROUP

30TH Security Forces Squadron

AFSPC Outstanding Security Forces Large Unit Award for 2001

30TH SFS

AFSPC Outstanding Security Forces Support Staff Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Lawrence Brown Jr.

30TH Civil Engineer Squadron

AFSPC Outstanding Civil Engineer Unit, large category

30TH CES

Outstanding Fire Protection Flight

30TH CES

Outstanding Environmental Flight

30TH CES

Cultural Resources management Award

30TH CES

Maj. Gen. Ahearn Enlisted Leadership Award

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Johnson

AFSPC 2001 Civilian Fire Officer of the Year Award

Dan Ardoin

Gen White Restoration Excellence Award

Bea Kephart

30TH Services Squadron

AFSPC Hennessy Trophy for Best Food Service Operation

30TH SVS

AFSPC LeMay Trophy for Best Large Services Squadron

30TH SVS

30TH Weather Squadron

Grisham Award for Outstanding Weather Company Grade Officer

Capt. Gregory Fox

Gardner Award for Outstanding Weather Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Shawn Dahl

Jenner Award for Outstanding Weather Civilian

Dr. Christy Crosiar

Dodson Award, Individual Excellence and Leadership by an Airman in an Air Force Weather Unit that Conducts Aerospace Weather Operations

Senior Airman Matthew Mitchell

30TH Mission Support

Gerrit D. Foster Jr. Outstanding Military Personnel Flight Achievement Award, category II

30TH MSS

Outstanding Mission Support Squadron Award Category II, small unit

30TH MSS

Outstanding Personnel Manager of the Year, Headquarters Level Junior Manager

Capt. Karla Heren

Outstanding Personnel Manager of the Year, Base Level Junior Manager

2ND Lt. Karalyne Lowery

Outstanding Personnel Manager of the Year, Base Level Superintendent

Master Sgt. Mark Long

Outstanding Civilian Personnel Specialist

Marta Ledesma

Senior Family Support/Family Readiness Individual Award

Sun Park

Intermediate Family Support/Family Readiness Individual Award

Tinisha Agramonte

30TH LOGISTICS GROUP

30TH Contracting Squadron

AFSPC Unit Level Award for Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act of 1971

30TH CONS

30TH Supply Fuels Flight

American Petroleum Institute (API) Awarded for outstanding improvements in conventional and unconventional fuels processes

United Paradyne and Phoenix Management Inc.

30TH Transportation Squadron

AFSPC Unit of the Year

Vehicle Operations Flight

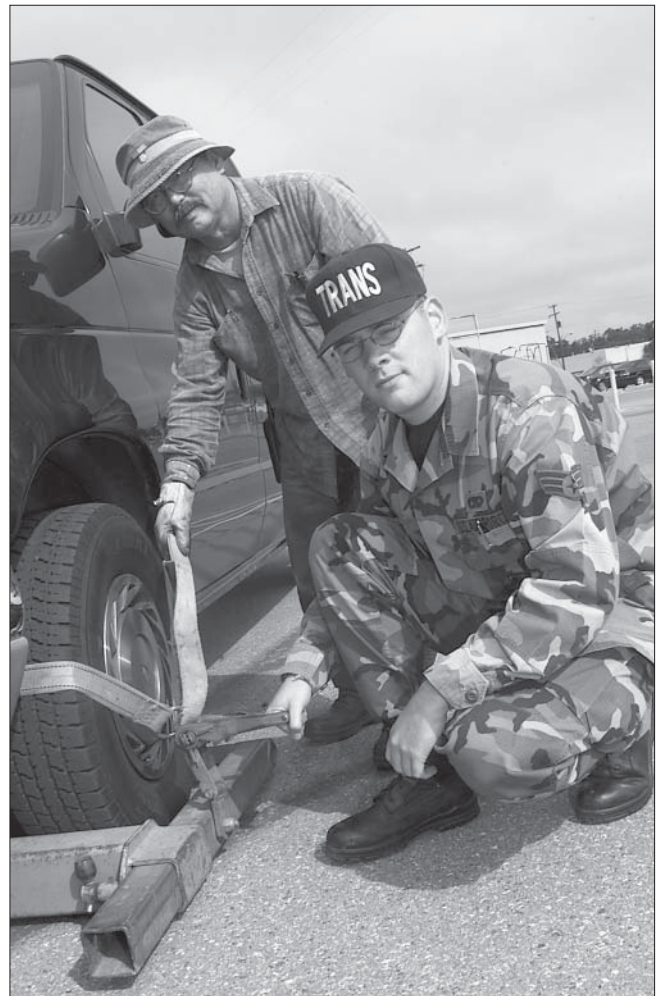


PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CANDICE ANGLIN

AFSPC Transportation Civilian of the Year, Toshiaki Yamamoto with Senior Airman Roger Dean III, from the AFSPC Unit of the Year Vehicle Operations Flight.

AFSPC Patient Administration/Managed Care Officer of the Year

Capt. Kevin Seeley

AFSPC Laboratory Manager of the Year

Capt. Patrick Kennedy

AFSPC Dental Junior Officer of the Year

Capt. Yvonne Bilo

AFSPC Bioenvironmental Engineering NCO of the Year

Staff Sgt. Ryan Fictum

AFSPC Laboratory Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Rachel Gardemal

AFSPC Dental Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Dennis Leon

AFSPC Public Health Airman of the Year

Airman 1ST Class Nancy Wall

Young Health Care Administrator

1ST Lt. Kevin Staples

Bioenvironmental Engineering Airman

Senior Airman Skye Terrell

AFSPC 2001 Personnel Manager of the Year

Senior Airman Jennifer Goodrich

Italian Film Festival, "Ecstasy: the End of the Dream" first Place

30TH CS

Department of Defense Visual Information Award, 2ND Place

30TH CS

Gill Robb Wilson recognizes the most outstanding contribution to national defense in the field of arts and letters

30TH CS

Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year

Susan Ashley, 30TH CS

This is not a complete list of 2001 major command awards. More award winners will be published as they are received by the 30TH Space Wing Public Affairs office.

If your unit or co-worker is not in this list send the information to space&missiletimes@vandenberg.af.mil

Great Job Team Vandenberg!



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CANDICE ANGLIN

AFSPC Security Forces Support Staff Senior NCO of the year Master Sgt. Lawrence Brown, 30TH Security Forces Squadron.

AFSPC Black Engineer of the Year

Maj. Kenn Allison

AFSPC Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award, NCO

Staff Sgt. Kenneth White

AFSPC C4 Association Award

Master Sgt. James Truman

576TH FLTS

AFSPC Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Communications/Electronics award, technician category

Senior Airman Brandon Claude

381ST TRAINING GROUP

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

381ST Training Group

Air Education Training Command Education and Training Manager category IV Mission Support Employee:

Cheryl Rawlings

DETACHMENT 9

Air Force Material Command Missile Safety Plaque category II

Det. 9 Space and Missile Systems Center

AFSPC Air Force Communications and Information Professionalism Award, civilian category

Jody Bacon

DET 3, 17TH TEST SQUADRON, AFSPC Tester of the Year, contractor category

Clark Popp

30TH SPACE WING

30TH SW Chapel

AFSPC Airman of the Year, chaplain Assistant

Senior Airman Mary Straub



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CANDICE ANGLIN

AFSPC Air Traffic Controller Watch Supervisor of the Year, Staff Sgt. Clarence Christianson, 30TH Operations Support Squadron.